

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 00067 102022Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 EUR-12 PM-05
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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4409

S E C R E T BRIDGETOWN 0067

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: BB

SUBJ: U.S. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN BARBADOS, GRENADA AND THE UK
ASSOCIATED STATES AND COLONIES

REF: 77 STATE 295556

1. EMBASSY HAS CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE STATEMENT OF GOALS AND
OBJECTIVES FOR OUR AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY CONTAINED IN REFTEL
AND MAKES THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS:

A) A POLICY ISSUE, OR RATHER A SERIES OF ISSUES THAT WILL
DIRECTLY IMPINGE ON OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN THIS AREA ARISES
OVER THE UNCERTAIN FUTURE STATUS OF THE ASSOCIATED STATES. SOME
LIKE ST. VINCENT AND DOMINICA APPEAR HELL-BENT FOR INDEPENDENCE
POSSIBLY AS SOON AS THIS YEAR. OTHERS SUCH AS ST. KITTS AND
ST. LUCIA MAY BE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS. THESE MINISCULE
ISLANDS ARE BESET BY CHRONIC ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL
PROBLEMS. WITH ALL THE LUCK IN THE WORLD THEY WOULD MAKE ONLY
VERY FEEBLE MINI-STATES. REALISTICALLY WHAT US CAN DO
TO STOP THEIR PUSH FOR INDEPENDENCE IS LIMITED, BUT WE CERTAINLY
SHOULD DO NOTHING TO ENCOURAGE THEM ON SUCH A HAPLESS COURSE.
WE HOPE SOON TO PROVIDE ANALYSIS UPON WHICH UPDATED POLICY
GUIDANCE ON THIS IMMEDIATE ISSUE CAN BE FORMULATED.

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B) WE BELIEVE IT WOULD STRENGTHEN THE FORMULATION OF
OUR GOALS IF IT WERE TO COMMENCE WITH A BRIEF STATEMENT
OF GENERAL AND SPECIFIC U.S. POLICY INTERESTS IN THE EASTERN
CARIBBEAN. HOW IMPORTANT IS THIS REGION TO BASIC
U.S. INTERESTS? DO WE WISH TO SUPPLANT THE BRITISH
AND CANADIANS WHO HAVE LONG EXERCISED PRIMARY RESPON-

SIBILITY IN THIS AREA?

C) ALTHOUGH IMPORTANT, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MORE
ACCURATE IN TERMS OF PRIORITY OF GOALS IF NEGOTIATION OF
AGREEMENTS ON MILITARY FACILITIES WERE PLACED MORE NEAR
THE END OF THE STATEMENT RATHER THAN AT THE BEGINNING.
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